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1. The amendment filed on May 20, 2008 has been entered. Accordingly, claims 1, 3 and 9-11 have been amended.
2. Based on the interview held with the attorney, Mr. Ramyar M. Farid, on August 26, 2008, Mr. Farid authorized an Examiner's amendment requiring the measures detailed in below. A copy of the interview summary is attached herewith.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ramyar M. Farid, on August 26, 2008.

Claim 1 (amended), line 13, "recesses" has been replaced with --open-ended channels--.

Claim 1 (amended), lines 15-17, " the recess has side Longitudinal direction" has been deleted.

Claim 3 (amended), line 2, "recesses" has been replaced with --open-ended channels--.

Claim 7, line 9, "recesses" has been replaced with --open-ended channels--.

Claim 9 (amended), line 17, "recesses" has been replaced with --open-ended channels--.

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Claim 9 (amended), lines 18-20, "the recess has side Longitudinal direction" has been deleted.

Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

The prior art, including Japanese Patent No.: JP 5-38627 A (Honda) and US Patent No. 6,930,332 B2 (Hashimoto et al.), of record does not show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not teach a surface light emitting device or a linear light source combining:

- a square-shaped wiring board having open-ended channels defined by the component side of the wiring board and the adjacent reflectors on both sides of each of the light emitting elements; and the light emitting elements arranged along the longitudinal direction as recited in each of the amended independent claims 1, 7 and 9;

Each of Honda and Hashimoto et al. discloses a surface light emitting device including close reflective cavities, each receiving a light emitting element. None of the above indicated prior arts specifically teach any portion of the cavity not having a wall. Thus, neither in combination nor individually Honda and Hashimoto et al. discloses the surface light emitting device including open-ended channels defined by the component side of the circuit board and reflectors arranged on both sides of each of the light emitting elements.

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Thus, neither in combination nor individually Honda and Hashimoto et al. meets the limitations of each of the amended independent claims 1, 7, and 9.

Therefore, each of the amended independent claims 1, 7 and 9 is allowed over prior art.

Claims 2-6 are necessarily allowed because of their dependency on the allowed amended independent claim 1.

Claim 8 is necessarily allowed because of their dependency on the allowed amended independent claim 7.

Claims 10 and 11 are necessarily allowed because of their dependency on the allowed amended independent claim 9.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S. Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr.

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Jong-Suk (James) Lee can be reached on 571 272 7044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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8/26/2008

/Hargobind S Sawhney/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2885